



Themeda triandra
Kangaroo Grass
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
SOCIETY
BALLARAT DISTRICT

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District Newsletter – March 2021

MONTHLY MEETINGS ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY
at ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE
GILLIES STREET ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4

FURTHER DETAILS SEE INFORMATION BOX

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 10th MARCH

Monthly Meeting

➔ NOTE: * Twilight Meeting * at 6.30PM

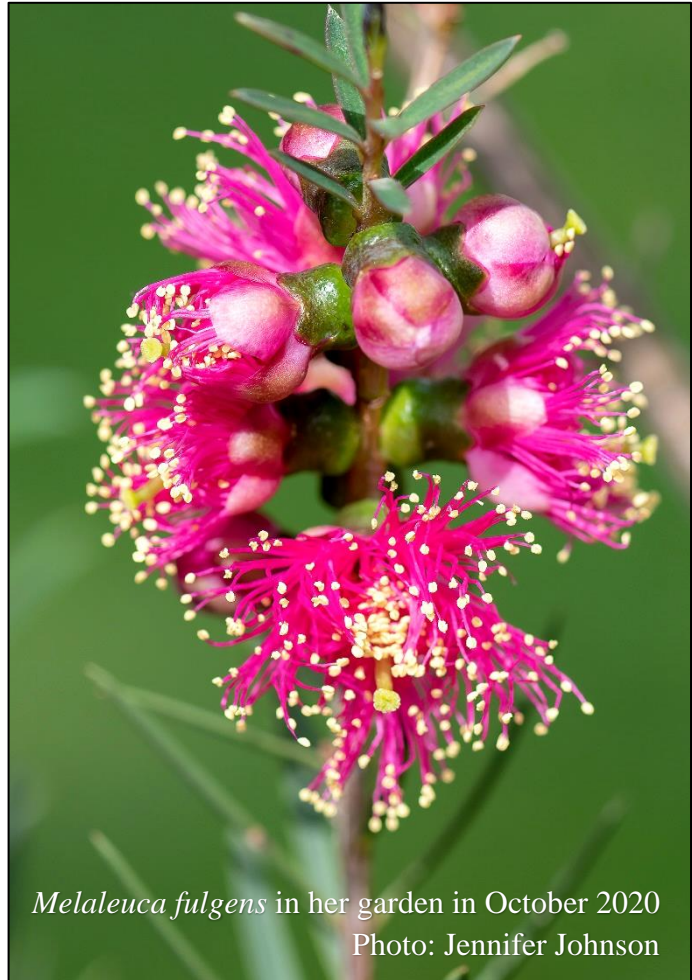
Venue – The ROTUNDA in the
BUNINYONG BOTANIC GARDENS
Guest Speaker – Elspeth Swan – ‘Bee
homes and Nest boxes’

All invited to bring specimens. BYO chair.
You may need to dress warmly, evenings
can get cold in Buninyong. Bring a picnic
tea if you want to. If you wish to Dine out
before the meeting the Crown Hotel dining
room opens at 5.30pm. Phone 5341 3402.
The Red Door Pizzeria opens at 5.00pm.
Telephone 5341 8235.

SUNDAY 14th MARCH – EXCURSION
Annual Bird and Plant Walk with Roger
Thomas

Venue – Pauls Wetland
9:00am to 11:45am.

Pauls Wetland is in Dowling Street,
Wendouree, on the east side of the street,
opposite Cambridge Street. (One block
south of the roundabout with Grevillea Rd.)



Melaleuca fulgens in her garden in October 2020
Photo: Jennifer Johnson

Pauls Wetland is a constructed filtration system for urban stormwater, a source of some supplementary water for Lake Wendouree and a junction-point for additional treated water going to Lake Wendouree from the North Ballarat Wastewater Treatment Plant. Fon Ryan will give a short description of the operation of the system at the start of the excursion.

This wetland supports a range of birdlife. Indigenous plantings are also a feature.

We will have a break for a cuppa during the morning, then drive to the **North Gardens Wetlands**. **There is an event on around Wendouree Parade, so we will park in Gregory Street or maybe St Aidents Drive (instructions on the day)**. Public toilets are not far from this location. At this venue there are chances to see a (day-roosting) Frogmouth, and if there is a bit of warmth, possibly turtles. Bring a hat, drink, morning tea, **BINOCULARS**, and maybe a camera as well. Any queries on finding your way ring Fon Ryan on mob 0422 696 285.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The February Meeting in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens was a pleasant occasion; good weather and lots of friendly interaction. It is to be hoped our experiment with a 'twilight meeting' is as successful. It is unfortunate the February Walk with Roger Thomas had to be cancelled but, thanks to Roger and Fon, it is now planned for Sunday 14th March. Anyone interested in using native flavours will find many of them are now available at Formosa Gardens in Redan. The plants available include *Backhousia citriodora*, (Lemon Myrtle), *Antheolea anisata* (Aniseed Myrtle), *Plectranthus graveolens* (Native Basil or Five-spice Plant) and *Kunzia ambigua*. These will all grow in pots if you do not have a suitable sheltered spot in the garden.

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

The Buninyong Rotunda proved a successful venue, and a well-attended and appreciated Meeting was had. President and Treasurers Reports were received.

NOTE: The Group does need a Secretary. Please offer your assistance.

The Robert Clark Centre is still unavailable and we are in contact with The City of Ballarat.

Future Meetings, Guest Speakers and Excursions, were discussed and all members are invited to make suggestions.

PLANT SALE

The Geelong APS Plant Sale is at Lovely Banks on Saturday 17th April. More information later.

The Garden at Elaine

There seemed to be few plants in flower as the weather dried up (only about half the usual February rain so far). However, closer inspection revealed something quite different! A few of these plants are summer flowerers but many are 'out of season'. The list indicates the range of plants we can grow in the Ballarat district without any supplementary watering. *Alyogyne heugeli*, *A. hakeaefolia*, *Ammobium alatum*, *Anigozanthus flavidis*, *Banksia marginata*, *Billardia scandens*, *Correa decumbens*, *C. glabra* x, *C. 'Dusky Bells'*, *C. 'Ivory Dancer'*, *C. 'Skye Bell'*, *C. 'Wins Wonder'*, *Crowea exalata*, *C. exalata rubra* (Southern Stars), *C. Exalata* (White Star), *C. saliqua*, *C. saliqua* x (Summer Star), *Eremophila bignoflora* x, *E. debilis*, *E. nivea* x, *E. weldii*, *E. 'Summertime Blue'*, *Eryngium ovinum* (Blue Devil), *Goodenia ovata*, *Grevillea hookerana* (Red Hooks), *G. lanigera*, *G. 'Grass Fire'*, *Hemiandra pungens*, *Hibiscus geranioides*, *Myoporum parvifolium*, *M. viscosum*, *Olearia rudis*, *Pandorea jasminoides*, *Prostanthera calycina* (Red Mint Bush), *P. serpyllifolia* (Yellow Mint Bush), *P. 'Poorinda Ballerina'*, *Scaevola 'Aussie Salute Pink'*, *Thryptomene 'Paynes Hybrid'*, *Westringea fruticosa 'Blue Heaven'*, *W. glabra*, *Xerochrysum bractiatum*. Plus, some *Melaleucas*, *Calistemons* and grassland herbs like *Bluebells*, *Billy Buttons* and *Sticky everlasting*. In total nearly fifty species and cultivars.

Garden observation from The Lewis's

In over 40 years in their Mt Helen home, Judith and Lance Lewis report that this year in their garden has been the best yet for growth and blooms. In all that time they have never experienced such lush and luxuriant growth from the plants. Lance is being kept very busy cutting and chopping back to keep the plants from running rampant all over each other!

Specimens exhibited at the February Meeting

Many great specimens were exhibited, with observations, discussions, identifications, and cutting material offered. I could only just keep up with so much, apologies to those I missed. Therefore, only the genera are listed, except for the Hastie's who provided a written list. It is good to have a list for the newsletter, so if you can, a list or note would be appreciated.

The Dalmans - *Verticordia*, *Chamelaucium*, *Eremophila*, *Xerochrysum*, *Epacris*, *Scaevola*, *Hibbertia*, *Xerochrysum*, *Anigozanthus*, *Chrysocephalum*

The Lees - *Scaevola*, *Callistemon*

(continued next page)

Carol King - *Grevillea*, *Crowea*, *Myoporum*
Janice Marty - *Melaleuca*'s
The Hasties - *Alyogyne hakeifolia*, *Callistemon*
'Pink Champagne', *Halgania preissii*,
Prostanthera calycina, *Westringia glabra*,
Melaleuca nesophila 'Little Nessie' (Showy
Honey Myrtle), *Scaevola aemula* 'Aussie Salute
Pink' (Fairy Fan Flower) ■

**APS BALLARAT DISTRICT LIBRARY
New Titles added February 2021**

Book Reviews by John Hastie

**Australian Native Gardening Made Easy
By Dick Chadwick**

Little Hills Press. 2017. ISBN960941877321.
\$39.99

A basic introduction to gardening. Planning, presentation, preparation, purchasing, planting and maintenance. Each of these topics is explained clearly with very little use of technical jargon. The Plants section (2/3 of the book) has good photographs and descriptions. The characteristics of the plants is given by sets of symbols which can become annoying.

Australian Native Plants: Concise edition. By John Wrigley and Murray Fagg

Reed New Holland, 2007 (Reprinted 2020). \$49.99

A classic book on Australian native plants, which contains information on collecting, propagating and usage.

The plants described are grouped by garden usage (shrubs, trees, ground covers etc.) Information given for each plant includes scientific name, family and common name or cultivar name (if there is one), growing zone, habit, usage and propagation method.

Photographs and illustrations by Murray Fagg are provided for many of the plants.

Australian Wildflowers, (Cronin's Key Guide) 3rd Edition. By Leonard Cronin

Allen and Unwin. 2016. ISBN 978760292478. \$35.00

A Field Guide with non-technical "visual keys" to make identification fairly quick, simple to use. Nearly 600 wildflowers from all parts of Australia. Family, size, distribution map, flowering time, description of leaves, flowers, fruit, Common name, and habitats are given for each species.

Birdscaping Australian Gardens. By George Adams

Penguin Group, 2015, ISBN 9780670078707. \$59.99

There are three sections in the book: How to Birdscape, Plant directory and Bird directory.

The how to Birdscape gives advice on plant choices to promote cover, shelter, nesting sites, water and food for particular groups of birds. (Seed eaters, nectar feeders, insect feeders, etc.)

The listing in the Plant Directory gives the scientific name, the common name and how it affects birdlife, a description including form, size, leaf and flower colour and flowering season.

The Bird Directory gives photographs and drawings of nearly 60 common garden birds. Details include habitat, feeding habits, breeding behavior and nesting.

Creating an Australian Garden. By Angus Stewart

Allen and Unwin. 2012. \$35.00

This book has 5 sections: Planning the Garden, Building the Garden, All about Plants, Garden examples, Native Plant cultivar list. All aspects of Gardening are discussed from testing the soil to choosing garden art, and everything else. A must have for anyone planning a new garden or a garden makeover. Notes and illustrations of nearly 500 cultivars. ■



Lithodora 'Grace Ward' in her garden
in October 2020. Photo: Jennifer Johnson



Jennifer Johnson took this photo of *Verticordia luteioloa* flowering in her garden in early January this year.

Thanks to all those who contributed reports or items for this issue

Deadline for April Newsletter: 31st March 2021



AFTERNOON TEA or SUPPER

Members, please have a cuppa at home for arvo tea or supper

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BALLARAT DISTRICT INC. Incorporation No. A0013127M

President: John Hastie P: 5341 5567
Secretary: Position vacant PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350
Treasurer: Ainslie Whyte PO Box 123W Ballarat West 3350
Newsletter Editor: Warren Hill wazizhill@gmail.com M: 0400 644 913

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The **SECOND WEDNESDAY** in October, November, December, February, March, at 7-30pm
The **SECOND WEDNESDAY** in April, May, June, July, August, September at 2-00pm

MEETING VENUE

ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE, Ballarat Botanical Gardens
Access: GILLIES St. ENTRANCE – GATE 3 or 4 (or from Wendouree Parade, **Afternoon Meetings only**)

CORRESPONDENCE

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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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